

A MEETING OF THE GRANTS SUB-BOARD

WAS HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2011

The Mayor (Councillor Allen) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Carter, C K (P), Chegwyn (P), Dickson (P), Edwards (P), Geddes (P) and Mrs Searle (P).

25. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of The Mayor.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Edwards declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in the item relating to Toe in the Water and Turning the Tide.

Councillor Hook declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item relating to Gosport Borough Youth Football Club.

Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in the item relating to Fleetlands Football Club.

Councillor Dickson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item relating to Holy Trinity Church.

27. MINUTES OF THE SUB-BOARD HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2010

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

28. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

29. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

30. REVENUE GRANT AID APPLICATIONS

The Sub-Board considered the joint report of the Financial Services Manager and Leisure & Corporate Services Manager (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix 'A') concerning a number of applications for Revenue Grant Aid.

(i) Toe in the Water

Note: Councillor Edwards declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion and the voting there on.

Consideration was given to an application for £2260 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of equipment for the Safety support boats.

Members acknowledged that Toe in the Water was one of the Mayor's nominated charities for 2010/11. It was also recognised that the charity had applied for and received large grants from other organisations.

Members discussed the application and recognised that 10 Gosport residents had benefited from the scheme.

Members were of the opinion that the Group would receive significantly more than the grant requested as a result of being one of the Mayor's nominated charities.

It was proposed that no grant be paid to Toe in the Water as it is anticipated that they would receive a significant sum as a result of being one of the Mayor's nominated charities.

Members voted 5 to 1 in favour of the proposal, with Councillor Chegwyn requesting that his vote against the proposal that no grant be awarded be recorded.

(ii) Hampshire Probation Trust

Consideration was given to an application for £400 in grant aid towards the cost of new gardening equipment.

Mr Pervin was invited to address the Board. He advised that he had worked with a large number of organisations in the Borough providing a range of services from decorating to allotment renovation.

Members recognised that the trust had undertaken much needed work at Gosport Borough Football Club, Thorngate Halls and Camden Allotments.

Members acknowledged that the demand for the services was likely to increase in the light of the current economic climate.

Members thanked the Hampshire Probation Trust for their hard work and agreed to award £400.

(iii) Groundwork Solent

Consideration was given to an application for £6000 in grant aid towards the cost

of a youth provision group in Seafield House in the Town Ward.

The group would be for children aged 16 and under and would be free to attend. Members were advised that the groups supported and enhanced the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of the attendees.

Members sought clarification as to breakdown of the significant staffing costs. Members were advised that funding was secured for each project individually and that the funding for each was ring fenced.

The Sub-Board were advised that the staffing costs included providing the group 51 weeks a year, management time, planning time and enhanced pay for Saturday working and call out duties.

Members recognised that payments towards staffing costs were only made in exceptional circumstances, but recognised the value of the project to residents.

It was proposed and agreed to award £3000.

(iv) Lee Festival

Consideration was given to an application for £1500 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of holding a summer festival.

Peter Paterson was invited to address the Board. He advised that the festival first took place in 2003 and was coordinated by businesses in Lee to allow community groups to promote themselves.

The Sub-Board were advised that the Festival cost £5000 to hold, which was becoming increasingly difficult to raise. The festival had established that a key element of its success was an attractive programme of entertainment to compliment the charity groups.

The Festival was requesting £1500 towards the cost of arena entertainment.

Members recognised that local companies provided a proportion of the funding for the festival and that it was an excellent asset for the communities of Lee and Gosport.

Members agreed to award £1500.

(v) Turning the Tide

Note: Councillor Edwards declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion and the voting there on.

Consideration was given to an application for £1452 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of a solo swim non stop around the Isle of Tiree to raise funds for Toe in the Water, the Samaritans and Sail Africa.

Members were advised that the competitors for this event were currently competing in South Africa.

Members recognised that the group raised money for other charities and had previously received a grant from the Sub-Board.

Members proposed and agreed to award £725.

(vi) 7th Gosport Scout Group

Consideration was given to an application for £1000 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of attending the 22nd World Scout Jamboree.

Andrew Garnham and Kieran Bradbury were invited to address the Sub-Board.

Mr Garnham advised that he was the Cub Scout Leader at the 7th Gosport Scout Group and that the Cubs he looked after were 7 ½ to 11 years.

He advised that he was attending the Jamboree as part of the International Service Crew and that Kieran was attending as a Youth Member. The Board were advised that Jamborees occurred every 4 years and were a once in a life time opportunity.

The Board were advised that the money currently held in the Group's accounts was funding towards a new roof and that the Group had contributed £200 towards the trip.

Members appreciated that the opportunity was a once in a life time event and recognised that the Sub-Board supported individual musicians and sports people.

It was hoped that on their return, they could both visit the Mayor's Parlour to share their experiences.

Members agreed to award £1000.

(vii) Hampshire County Youth Band

Consideration was given to an application for £600 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of purchasing new equipment.

Members were advised that the band comprised over 150 members from across Hampshire, 12 of which resided in Gosport. The band performed at events throughout the county and promoted commitment and team working, as well as musical talent.

Members were advised that funding was secured from various different means, although it was proving harder to come by in the current financial climate.

Members recognised the importance of the band and the high quality level that

they performed at and agreed to award £600.

(viii) Alverstoke Lawn Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club (Individual Player)

Consideration was given to an application for £950 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of developing a young sportsman over the next two years.

Members acknowledged that they had helped to support this player before, but recognised the ranking of the player and the expense involved in supporting their development.

Members agreed to award £950.

(ix) Solent Healthy Walks

Consideration was given to an application for £400 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of starting a new walking group.

Members were advised that the group formed in January 2011 replaced Walking Friends Gosport. The group supported people recovering from illness and provided a form of social activity.

Members recognised the importance of the Group and agreed to award £400.

(x) Rowner Bowling Club

Consideration was given to an application for £1300 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of furnishing the club house extension.

Members were advised that the club had self funded to build a new extension to the club; they were requesting support to help furnish it.

Members were advised that the group had undertaken a large amount of fund raising themselves and had recently been successful in recruiting additional youth members.

Members welcomed the effort of the group so far and agreed to award £1300.

(xi) Lee-on-the-Solent Residents Association

The Association was represented by Richard Mackay who advised that it had over 1000 members and were seeking funding towards the cost of holding an event to support Gosport's Big Day Out/ Festival. The Association aimed to bring the community together.

Members recognised the value of the activities provided by the Association and agreed to award £950.

(xii) Gosport Stars Syncro Ice Skating Club

Consideration was given to an application for £1086 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of holding, attending and competing in national competitions.

Members were advised that that the Club competed in national tournaments in Nottingham and Dumfries and that the members worked hard in training three or four times a week. The Club competed against other clubs from big cities and as a result often had to buy in time to train on Olympic size Ice rinks at Basingstoke and Guildford.

Larger clubs from bigger cities often attracted private sponsorship, whereas Gosport Stars had to rely on parents and members fundraising.

Two members of the club addressed the Sub-Board. They advised that the club was fun and taught its members discipline and provided them with a regular form of exercise.

Members acknowledged that the Club had helped to support the Ice Rink and agreed to award £1086.

(xiii) Gosport Dolphins

Consideration was given to an application for £1130 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of training new coaches.

Members were advised that the Gosport Dolphins Club had been formed in 1976 and currently had 103 members. A small number of these members had been successful enough to move on to training at Portsmouth Northsea and compete nationally.

The club were requesting grant aid towards the training of new coaches; they had undertaken a large amount of fund raising themselves.

Members recognised the work of the Club and the opportunities it provided for young people in the Borough and agreed to award £1130.

(xiv) Vitalise

Consideration was given to an application for £1500 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of funding core and volunteer breaks.

It was clarified that the turnover of the organisation was large as they were a national charity. Members recognised that support had been given to residents of Gosport, providing respite care for families.

Members proposed and agreed to award £1000.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) No grant be paid to Toe in the Water;

- (ii) A grant of £400 be paid to Hampshire Probation Trust;
- (iii) A grant of £3000 be paid to Groundwork Solent;
- (iv) A grant of £1500 be paid to Lee Festival;
- (v) A grant of £725 be paid to Turning the Tide;
- (vi) A grant of £1000 be paid to the 7th Gosport Scout Group;
- (vii) A grant of £600 be paid to Hampshire County Youth Band;
- (viii) A grant of £950 be paid to Alverstoke Lawn Tennis, Squash and Badminton Club;
- (ix) A grant of £400 be paid to Solent Healthy Walks;
- (x) A grant of £1300 be made to Rowner Bowling Club;
- (xi) A grant of £950 be made to Lee-on-the-Solent Residents Association;
- (xii) A grant of £1086 be made to Gosport Stars Syncro Ice Skating Club;
- (xiii) A grant of £1130 be made to Gosport Dolphins; and
- (xiv) A grant of £1000 be made to Vitalise.

31 URGENT REVENUE APPLICATIONS

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following items be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that they had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the need to urgently consider the following revenue applications.

(i) Gosport Borough Youth FC

Note: Councillor Hook declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion thereon.

Consideration was given to an application for £2000 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of holding an annual summer tournament.

Members were advised that the Club provided safe structured football training for young people which included an annual tournament held at HMS Sultan for all local clubs to participate.

Members were advised that there were fixed costs associated with holding the tournament, including referees, programmes and trophies. These could not be recouped if adverse weather disrupted the tournament.

Members were advised that up to 1200 people attended and took part in the tournament and that the accounts for the club had been submitted when attendance was at its maximum.

The Sub-Board was advised that the reserve account held was for the eventual purchase of a training facility. Members were also advised that the club would always ensure that they would have enough in reserve financially to ensure that club would complete any season started.

Members recognised that the large scale of the event ensured that a large number of young people participated and benefited from it.

Members agreed to award £2000.

(ii) Friends of Leesland Park

Consideration was given to an application for £500 in grant aid towards the cost of holding a festival.

Members were advised that the Friends of Leesland Park had been established in 1998. They hosted a number of events throughout the year for local residents to support the local community and allow local charities to advertise themselves and raise much needed funds.

The events were well supported by the local community.

Members welcomed the work that had been undertaken by the group since its formation. They had brought the community together and were providing an event for the local community to attend free of charge.

Members fully supported the work of the group and agreed to award £500.

(iii) Big Noise Community Samba Band

Consideration was given to an application for £945 in revenue grant aid towards the cost of replacing equipment.

Kevin Moore was invited to address the Board. He advised that the band had played at events throughout Gosport and the surrounding area and that the costs to run the group were approximately £6000 p/a.

This included fees for a Musical Director and replacing instruments. The Band did levy a charge for playing events, but this was significantly reduced for charities and local groups.

Members welcomed the work of the band and their participation at a wide number of events and agreed to award £945.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) a grant of £2000 be paid to Gosport Borough Youth Football Club;
- (ii) a grant of £500 be paid to Friends of Leesland Park; and
- (iii) a grant of £945 be paid to Big Noise Community Samba Band.

32. CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Sub-Board considered the joint report of the Financial Services Manager and Leisure & Corporate Services Manager (a copy of which is attached in the Minute

Book as Appendix 'B') concerning a number of applications for Capital Grant Aid.

(i) Fleetlands Football Club

Note: Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in this item, remained in the meeting room and took part in the discussion there on.

Consideration was given to an application for £6811 in capital grant aid towards the cost of replacement barriers.

Mr George Mason was invited to address the Board. He advised the Sub-Board of the history of the club and that the club currently provided a step seven facility on the Football League pyramid.

Conditions of the status of a step seven club required that a permanent barrier be erected and maintained between spectators and the playing area.

Members were advised that the existing barrier was over 20 years old and now in need of repair and that the club were applying for a capital grant to support them in doing this.

Members were advised that the club acted as a feeder club for teams higher up the pyramid.

Members acknowledged the improvements and the work undertaken by the club and agreed to award £4698.

(ii) 5th Gosport Sea Scout Group

Consideration was given to an application for £7000 in capital grant aid towards the cost of a replacement roof.

Ms Rowena Vine was invited to address the Board. She advised that the group had been in their current facility for 30 years, the roof of which was now leaking.

The group had undertaken many sponsored events including sponsored walks and had been approved for matched funding from the 'You decide' awards.

Members recognised that a large number of Scout facilities in the area were deteriorating in condition and agreed to award £4698.

RESOLVED: That;

- (i) A grant of £4698 be paid to Fleetlands Football Club; and
- (ii) A grant of £4698 be paid to 5th Gosport Sea Scouts.

33. URGENT CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATIONS

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following

items be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that they had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the need to urgently consider the following capital applications.

(i) Jacobs Well Pentecostal Church

Consideration was given to an application from Jacobs Well for £1000 towards the cost of purchasing portacabins to store goods as part of the Bread of Life Scheme.

The Board were advised that scheme had a link with Sainsbury's in Fareham and had begun in August 2009. Surplus bread was delivered and distributed to those most in need. There were currently 280 families on the role, but the Church were finding that they often did not have enough space to store the surplus food.

The Church was hoping to purchase the portacabins to assist in the storage and distribution of food.

Members welcomed the scheme and the life line it provided for many families. It was requested that the correct planning permission be approved before any grant be awarded.

Members agreed to award £2500.

(ii) Holy Trinity Church

Note: Councillor Dickson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting room and took part in the discussion or voting there on.

Councillor Geddes, Vice Chairman chaired the meeting for this item in the absence of the Chairman

Consideration was given to an application from Holy Trinity Church for £7600 towards the cost of refurbishing the Church clock.

Members were advised that the church had many historical features including a pipe organ known to be used by Handel.

Members recognised the support the Church provided for the community and advised them to contact local County Councillors and the Leader of Hampshire County Council to request additional funding.

Members agreed to award £4698.

RESOLVED: That:

- (i) A grant of £2500 be paid to Jacobs Well Pentecostal Church; and
- (ii) A grant of £4698 be paid to Holy Trinity Church

34 ANY OTHER ITEMS

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their support over the last Municipal Year and in return the Sub-Board Members expressed their thanks to the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 7.56pm

CHAIRMAN